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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Pinto DATE TYPED: 02/12/02 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Proposed Fence Lake Coal Strip Mine SB SJM100

ANALYST: Trujillo

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	NFI		NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 100 requests:

- Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) secretary and the director of the mining and minerals division of the department to reconsider the issuance of the mining permit issued for the Salt river project's proposed Fence lake coal strip mine near Zuni Salt Lake,
- The secretary of the interior be requested not to issue any needed permits for this project; and
- Copies of the memorials be transmitted to the secretary of EMNRD, the director of the mining and minerals division of EMNRD and to the secretary of the interior.

Significant Issues

The memorial indicates:

- Zuni Salt lake has provided salt used for religious purposes by Zunis and members of nearby tribes and pueblos for hundreds of years;
- The proposed mine would draw water from the Zuni Salt lake;
- The proposed mine would disturb over five hundred human burial sites and shrines and

places to which members of seven pueblos and tribes make prayer pilgrimages;

- The unique ecosystem of Zuni Salt lake and the surrounding sanctuary district is eligible for inclusion in the national register of historic places as a traditional cultural property;
- Studies by the bureau of Indian affairs find the mine would drain the Dakota aquifer to a point that it would cause irrevocable damage to the sacred Zuni Salt lake;
- No people of any faith should have their sacred areas destroyed; and
- The United States department of the interior has a trust responsibility to all Native American tribes to protect their land and culture.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Memorial may result in a minor increase in the administrative burden upon a few department employees who will be required to examine the permit process.

LAT/njw